

ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*I am the vine and you are the branches.
you remain with me and I with you, then you will bear much
Love one another as I have loved you.*
John 15

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone back after the Autumn half-term. I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing break. As ever, it has been a hugely exciting and busy few weeks since I last wrote to you.

This week our children participated in a fantastic Black History Showcase, proudly sharing what they had learned in their history, music and art lessons. The event featured inspiring presentations, creative artwork and beautiful songs that celebrated culture, identity and unity. It was a wonderful way to bring their learning together, and we are proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, effort and creativity.

Looking ahead, there is an enormous amount taking place this term. We have several events coming up in the next two weeks, including Remembrance Day, Anti-Bullying Week and our eagerly anticipated Dragons' Den presentations. In addition, parent consultations will take place. If you have not already booked appointments, please do so. Finally, as part of our focus on community and inclusion, everyone will have the opportunity to write a "Ribbon of Welcome" to celebrate and show our shared commitment to welcoming all into our school community.

This week we had several children trading in 5 values cards for a book from our school vending machine. The children can earn values cards for showing our school values: Faith, Equality, Caring, Truth, Wisdom, Forgiveness and Respect and for great effort in their work. Please encourage your child to collect these and keep them safe so they too can enjoy a free book of their choice.

Our School Council has been busy, too. Before we broke up, they met with a special visitor, who taught us how to keep safe in an emergency. The visitor also shared a little about how government departments and first responders work together. This week, councillors have been promoting their popular hair bow sales and gathering pupil feedback. They've highlighted that some of our Year 6 children would like to start wearing ties as part of their preparation for secondary school. To support this idea, we will be making ties available for purchase soon, exclusively for Year 6 pupils to begin with. Of course, wearing a tie will be completely optional. We are thrilled to celebrate our fantastic whole-school attendance for the year to date: an amazing 97.59%! It's been wonderful to see so many smiling faces in classrooms every day, ready to learn, share, and grow together.

Good attendance is incredibly important - every single day in school helps the children build knowledge, confidence, and friendships that shape their future success. When everyone is present, our school community thrives, and we all achieve more together. Let's keep up the great work and aim for even higher attendance next week!

I would like to close this week's newsletter with a quote from Ephesians 4:32, which reminds us of the importance of kindness and compassion toward one another "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Best wishes,
Joe Pitchford

Attendance



Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 97.08%.

Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96.21%.

Well done St Mary's!

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 97.59%

Gentle Reminder:

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please leave a message for the office team on the school absence line by calling 020 8521 1066 and dialling 1.

Please ensure this message includes the reason your child is off sick - i.e. sore throat, temperature or stomach bug.

If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment during the day or they are late to school due to a medical appointment, you will need to provide the school office with an appointment letter/record.

Important Messages

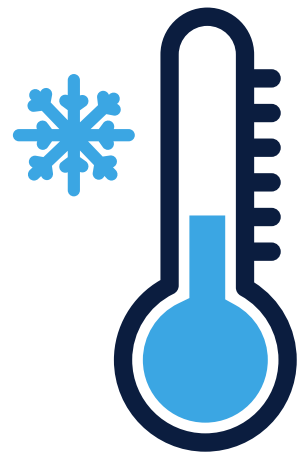
Medication

If your child has medication in school, please ensure that you have noted down the expiry dates to ensure we have the correct medication in school. If your child's doctor has made any changes to their medication or the procedure for caring for your child, please ensure the office is informed in writing of any changes and receives a copy of the documents from the GP.



Cooler Weather

As the temperature are getting cooler, we would like all children to bring a light jacket that is labelled with their name however still continue to bring in their own water bottle.





YEAR 3 AND 4 GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



A GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTIC YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 GIRLS TOOK PART IN THE RECENT GIRLS' FOOTBALL FESTIVAL. THEY HAD A FANTASTIC TIME DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS, BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND ENJOYING THE GAME TOGETHER. WE'RE DELIGHTED WITH THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND HOPE TO OFFER MORE EXCITING SPORTS TRIPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND GET MORE CHILDREN INVOLVED!



This week we were delighted to hand over some of the Seeds of Change money we raised to support young people facing homelessness. We were able to donate an incredible £4,000 to Depaul which is one of the charities we've worked closely with throughout this project. The children also heard directly from the charity about how the money will be used to make a difference.

		155-32 15317
Date: <u>October 2025</u>		
Pay to the Order of: <u>Depaul Charity</u>	£ 4,000	
<u>to support Youth Homelessness</u>		
Memo: <u>Seeds of Change</u>	<u>Genesis Education Trust</u>	
Signed		
:15532: :9945651365:1553200059: 15317		

A huge congratulations to everyone involved for their effort, generosity and commitment to helping others!



Walthamstow Festive Greetings Card Competition

Parents, Carers and the Creative Children of St Mary's,

We are excited to inform you about an upcoming greeting card competition, designed as an enjoyable and festive project for your child.

Kindly find the competition details provided by the office of Walthamstow's MP, Stella Creasy.

The competition is to design the card that I, as MP for Walthamstow, will send to over 3,000 local and national people to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah and the coming New Year. Every child under the age of 12 at the date of this letter who lives in my constituency is eligible to participate and participants are encouraged to use their creativity to express the celebrations of this time of year as well as what is special about our local community. The winning design will be professionally printed on cards in full colour in A5 and sent to over 4,000 people including the Prime Minister as well as my colleagues in parliament. In addition to having their design reproduced, the young person whose design is selected will be invited, along with their family, for a thank you afternoon tea in Westminster.

This card is kindly supported and sponsored by local businesses and would not be possible without their support.

Please note the following guidelines for successful entries:

- Do not stick anything to the card nor use glitter
- Use lots of bright colours (felt tip or paint work best as the design will be digitally reproduced)
- Local references are encouraged

The closing date for entries is Thursday 27th November 2025 at 5pm.

All entries can either be posted to my office (23 Orford Road, E17 9NL) or emailed as a jpeg or PDF to office@workingforwalthamstow.org.uk.

Entries should include the name, home address, telephone number, school and age of the young person - they will not be considered without this information.

Autumn Events

NOVEMBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11 Moment of Silence 🕊️ Dragons' Den Finals	12	13 Reception Year 1 = Baby Dino & Fossil Visitor 🦖 Write a Ribbon of Welcome event 3:40	14 Hair Bow Order Deadline 📅 Wear Jamaican Colours & bring a donation
17 Reception Church Visit 🏰	18	19 Dyslexia specialist coffee morning 9.15 ☕ Parent/Teacher Consultations 🗨️	20 Parent/Teacher Consultations 🗨️	21
24 Autism Specialist Coffee Morning 9.15 ☕	25	26 Science Dome 🏠 immersive experience	27 Science Dome 🏠 immersive experience Deadline for Christmas Card competition	28

DECEMBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Year 2 Animal Workshop 🐾	3 Year 1 Magician 🎩 ✨	4	5	6
8 Y5 Carols in Walthamstow Village 🎵 *Last week of boosters and activity clubs N.B. Breakfast and TeaTime clubs in the hall continue.	9 Pantomime 🎭	10 Professor Bubble Works – Science Workshop 🧪 🌈	11	12	13 PFA Christmas Fair 🎄
15	16 Hartbeeps Rec/Y1 📺	17 Nativity Attlee & Morris 🌟	18 Nativity Wilson 🌟 School ends early	19	20



PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

Do you have a child who was born
between 1 September 2021 and 31
August 2022?

If so, your child is eligible to start
primary school in September
2026.

To make an application, please
apply online at
www.eadmissions.org.uk
by 15 January 2026.

For more information, visit the Waltham
Forest Primary Admission page:
[https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/
schools-education-and-learning/apply-
primary-school](https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/schools-education-and-learning/apply-primary-school) where you can download a
copy of the Starting Primary School 2026
brochure with full details on how to apply.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

Do you have a child who was born between
1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015
or who is currently in Year 6?

If so, they are due to start Secondary School
in September 2026.

To make an application please apply online
www.eadmissions.org.uk by
31 October 2025.

For more information visit the Waltham Forest
Secondary admission page
<https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/applying-secondary-school-place> where you can download a copy
of the Starting Secondary School 2026 brochure
which has full details of how to apply.



Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Mary's is a Healthy School. Children should not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks as morning snacks, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day. Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly – please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.

We are proud to be a nut free school!



Food Bank



We have now got a food bank located in our school office foyer. We are welcoming donations of tinned goods and non perishable items.

The food bank is open for any families struggling with the cost of living crisis. You are welcome to come into the office at any time to collect items that you may need.

Any extra donations will be donated to local food banks to provide support our local community.

Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. This can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



Term Dates: 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025 First Half (37 Days)

INSET – Mon 1st, Tues 2nd and Wed 3rd September 2025

Start – Thursday 4th September 2025

End – Friday 24th October 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th October -31st October 2025

Second Half (34 Days)

Start – Monday 3rd November 2025

End – Thursday 18th December 2025

Holidays: Friday 19th December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term 2026 First Half (30 Days)

Start – Monday 5th January 2026

End - Friday 13th February 2026

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026

Second Half (25 Days)

Start - Monday 23rd February 2026

End – Friday 27th March 2026

Holidays: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026 First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 13th April 2026

End - Friday 22nd May 2026

Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026

Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 (during Half Term)

Second Half (35 Days)

Start - Monday 1st June 2026

End – Friday 17th July 2026

St. Mary's Christian Vision

I AM THE VINE AND YOU
ARE THE BRANCHES. IF
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I
HAVE LOVED YOU.
(JOHN 15).